CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

 A method for controlling subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of services, comprising:

receiving a communication from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to a second communication network, said communication optionally including a domain identifier associated with a service on said second communication network; and

authorizing said subscriber to access a service on said second communication

network using one of a plurality of virtual circuits, said authorizing based upon a

domain configuration override attribute associated with the virtual circuit used to

receive said communication from said subscriber.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein said authorizing further comprises:

receiving from a memory a virtual circuit profile associated with said virtual circuit; assessing said virtual circuit profile to determine if a domain configuration override

attribute exists within said virtual circuit profile; and

allowing said subscriber to connect exclusively to a service associated with said domain configuration override attribute when said domain configuration override attribute exists within said virtual circuit profile.

- 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising: causing the subscriber to disconnect from all then existing network connections when said domain configuration override attribute exists within said virtual circuit profile and when said domain identifier in said communication does not match said service associated with said domain configuration override attribute.
 - 4. The method of claim 2 wherein said service request comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session service request.
- 5. The method of claim 4 whereinsaid PPP session comprises a tunneling session; andsaid allowing further comprises assigning a tunnel ID.
- 15 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP session.
 - 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said receiving a virtual circuit profile further comprises performing a table lookup based upon a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) associated with said virtual circuit.
 - 8. A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method to control subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of services, the method comprising:
- receiving a communication from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to a second communication network, said communication optionally

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including a domain identifier associated with a service on said second communication network; and

authorizing said subscriber to access a service on said second communication

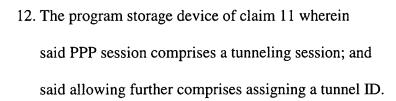
network using one of a plurality of virtual circuits, said authorizing based upon a

domain configuration override attribute associated with the virtual circuit used to
receive said communication from said subscriber.

- 9. The program storage device of claim 8 wherein said authorizing further comprises: receiving from a memory a virtual circuit profile associated with said virtual circuit; assessing said virtual circuit profile to determine if a domain configuration override attribute exists within said virtual circuit profile; and allowing said subscriber to connect exclusively to a service associated with said domain configuration override attribute when said domain configuration override attribute exists within said virtual circuit profile.
- 10. The program storage device of claim 9, further comprising:

 causing the subscriber to disconnect from all then existing network connections when said domain configuration override attribute exists within said virtual circuit profile and when said domain identifier in said communication does not match said service associated with said domain configuration override attribute.
- 11. The program storage device of claim 9 wherein said service request comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session service request.

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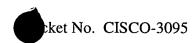


- 13. The program storage device of claim 12 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP session.
- 14. The program storage device of claim 13 wherein said receiving a virtual circuit
 profile further comprises performing a table lookup based upon a Virtual Path
 Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) associated with said virtual circuit.
 - 15. An apparatus for controlling subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of services, the apparatus comprising:
 - means for receiving a communication from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to a second communication network, said communication optionally including a domain identifier associated with a service on said second communication network; and

means for authorizing said subscriber to access a service on said second

communication network using one of a plurality of virtual circuits, said

authorizing based upon a domain configuration override attribute associated with
the virtual circuit used to receive said communication from said subscriber.



- 16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said means for authorizing further comprises: means for receiving from a memory a virtual circuit profile associated with said virtual circuit;
- 5 means for assessing said virtual circuit profile to determine if a domain configuration override attribute exists within said virtual circuit profile; and means for allowing said subscriber to connect exclusively to a service associated with said domain configuration override attribute when said domain configuration override attribute exists within said virtual circuit profile.

means for causing the subscriber to disconnect from all then existing network

17. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

connections when said domain configuration override attribute exists within said virtual circuit profile and when said domain identifier in said communication does not match said service associated with said domain configuration override attribute.

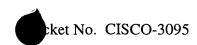
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18. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said service request comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session service request.

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19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein

said PPP session comprises a tunneling session; and said means for allowing further comprises assigning a tunnel ID.

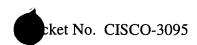


- 20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP session.
- 21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said means for receiving a virtual circuit profile further comprises a means for performing a table lookup based upon a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) associated with said virtual circuit.
- 22. An access server capable of forcing subscribers of a communications system to gain access exclusively to a domain network associated with a virtual circuit, said access server comprising:
 - an authorizer capable of granting service authorization to said subscribers based upon a virtual circuit used to make a service request;
 - a virtual circuit profile request generator capable of generating virtual circuit profile requests;
 - an assessor capable of assessing said requested virtual circuit profile for a domain configuration override attribute; and
 - a calculator capable of determining whether the service associated with said virtual circuit matches the service associated with said domain configuration override attribute.

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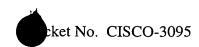
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- 23. The access server of claim 22, further comprising:
 - a receiving interface capable of accepting said service requests;
 - a forwarding interface capable of sending said virtual circuit profile requests to a memory bank; and
- a second receiving interface capable of accepting requested virtual circuit profiles.



- 24. The access server of claim 22 wherein said service request comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session service request.
- 5 25. The access server of claim 23 wherein said PPP session comprises a tunneling session; and said calculator is capable of assigning a tunnel ID.
 - 26. The access server of claim 24 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP session.
 - 27. The access server of claim 25 wherein said assessor is capable of performing a table lookup based upon a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) associated with said virtual circuit.
 - 28. The access server of claim 26 wherein said receiving interface comprises at least one access multiplexer, each access multiplexer having a plurality of inputs for receiving a service request, each of said inputs being associated with a particular subscriber virtual circuit.
 - 29. The access server of claim 23 wherein said memory bank and said access server communicate using the Remote Authorization Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.

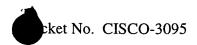
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- 30. An access server capable of forcing subscribers of a communications system to gain access exclusively to a domain network associated with a virtual circuit, said access server comprising:
- a memory device capable of storing a plurality of virtual circuit profiles, said virtual circuit profiles capable of having a domain configuration override attribute associated with subscriber authorized services;
 - an authorizer capable of granting service authorization to said subscribers based upon a virtual circuit used to make a service request;
- a virtual circuit profile request generator capable of generating virtual circuit profile requests;
 - an assessor capable of assessing said requested virtual circuit profile for a domain configuration override attribute; and
 - a calculator capable of determining whether the service associated with said virtual circuit matches the service associated with said domain configuration override attribute.
 - 31. The access server of claim 29, further comprising:
- a receiving interface capable of accepting said service requests;
 - a forwarding interface capable of sending said virtual circuit profile requests to a memory bank; and
 - a second receiving interface capable of accepting requested virtual circuit profiles.

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- 32. The access server of claim 29 wherein said service request comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session service request.
- 5 33. The access server of claim 29 wherein said PPP session comprises a tunneling session; and said calculator is capable of assigning a tunnel ID.
 - 34. The access server of claim 32 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP session.
 - 35. The access server of claim 33 wherein said assessor is capable of performing a table lookup based upon a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) associated with said virtual circuit.
 - 36. The access server of claim 34 wherein said receiving interface comprises at least one access multiplexer, each access multiplexer having a plurality of inputs for receiving a service request, each of said inputs being associated with a particular subscriber virtual circuit.

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